Lookout

March 17, 2011

WELCOME TO SOUND - OFF

Do you often see or hear things that grind your gears? Do you see problems and immediately think of solutions or better ways of doing business? Or, do you just want to voice your opinion on a work-related topic? If you've answered "YES" to any one of these questions then now you have the opportunity to do just that!

Lookout is now featuring a section called "Sound – Off." This section will collect and present ideas, topic questions and comments on just about anything work-related that the KSC family would like discussed. Write-ups can be submitted via e-mail to the *Lookout* POCs or anonymously through the *Lookout* boxes.

VPP — Voluntary Protection Programs — An OSHA Cooperative Program

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) is an OSHA cooperative program developed to recognize and promote effective worksite-based safety and health management systems. VPP compliance is a shared responsibility between each employee and the employer. NASA-KSC received its initial Star Certification on Feb. 2, 2004, and has since maintained its certification. In March 2012, NASA-KSC will undergo its second VPP re-evaluation. A KSC-specific list of supervisor and employee responsibilities can be found in the VPP presentation on the Safety and Health Days website at **http://nasa.ksc.nasa.gov/safetyhealth/index.htm**
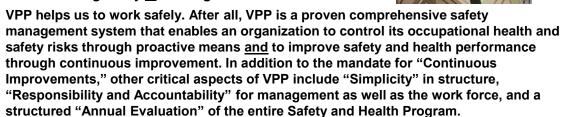
Art Edwards, USA Safety, says this of VPP:

The key to VPP is working smart by working safely!

- Working safely is an expectation of all
- Working safely is everyone's responsibility
- Working safely <u>is</u> working smart!

VPP helps us to work safely. After all, VPP is a proven comprehensive safety management system that enables an organization to control its occupational health and safety risks through proactive means <u>and</u> to improve safety and health performance through continuous improvement. In addition to the mandate for "Continuous Improvements," other critical aspects of VPP include "Simplicity" in structure, "Responsibility and Accountability" for management as well as the work force, and a structured "Annual Evaluation" of the entire Safety and Health Program.

Working safely increases the probability that we all return home. It goes well beyond just doing our jobs safely. Among other things, it entails looking for and addressing unsafe conditions in the work area to reduce the chances of injury or mishap.

Working Safely is Just Plain Smart!

St. Patrick's Day *Fun Facts*

- St. Patrick was born Maewyn Succat near the end of the 4th Century A.D. in Roman Britain, not Ireland.

- He later adopted Patricius as his Christian/Roman name and then became widely known as Patrick.

- At age 16, he was captured and sold into slavery to a sheep farmer in Ireland. At age 22, he escaped and spent the next 12 years in a monastery in France.

- In 432 A.D., Pope Celestine ordained Patrick a bishop and later that year he began his mission in Ireland that lasted more than 30 years.

- Originally, the color associated with St. Patrick was not green, but blue! In the 19th century, however, green came to be used as a symbol for Ireland.

- The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America *on 1737 in Boston. The* first parade took place in New York City (not Ireland) on March 17, 1762.

- There are more Americans of Irish origin than there are Irish in Ireland (36 million Americans claimed Irish ancestry in 2008; population of Ireland was 4.4 million at the time).